stands referred to BIFR under the provisions of Sick Industries Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The BIFR has declared NTC (Guj.) along with its constituent units as a sick company and has issued a show cause notice for winding up of this Company.

No NTC Mill in the State of Gujarat has been closed. However, there is cessation of activities in all the mills due to shortage of working capital. Government are considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of the mills becoming positive within the prescribed period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view while finalising the revised turn around strategy.

(c) and (d) A Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been in operation in NTC and as on 31.3.1998, 7951 employees have already availed of the benefits of VRS in NTC (Guj.) Ltd. There is no special retirement scheme separately for technical staff and officers. Under the VRS scheme due compensation at the rate of 45 days wages/salaries for each completed year of service or the wages/salaries for the balance service, whichever is less, in addition to the normal terminal benefits is paid to the employees.

Revival Scheme of NTC

2420. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state:

(a) whether the turn around scheme 1995 for the revival of National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills have failed to take off;

(b) the schemes currently with the Textile Ministry to modernise and reorganise the N.T.C. Mills; and

(c) whether Government will take a fresh initiative with the Government of Maharashtra to allow sale of land owned by N.T.C. in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Government had approved a revised turn around strategy for NTC involving modernisation of 79 mills at an outlay of Rs. 2005.72 crores. The funds for modernisation were to be raised from sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. This revival plan has been placed before the BIFR since 8 out of 9 subsidiaries have been referred to the BIFR where the matter is presently under consideration. However, the sale of land and assets could not be effected. Major portion of such proceeds have to be generated from sale of surplus land/assets situated in the Mumbai mills of NTC for which State Government clearance is still awaited.

(b) On the basis of a unit wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

(c) The Government have taken up the matter regarding sale of land of NTC Mills in Maharashtra with the Government of Maharashtra at the highest level on a number of occasions. Recently Minister of Textiles met the concerned Ministers in the State Government to expedite the matter.

Rehabilitation of textile workers

2421. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TWRF scheme was introduced by Government with effect from 15th September, 1986 to rehabilitate the workers of closed textile mills;

(b) if so, when and at what level the decision was taken to restrict its implementation to the private sector and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Since its inception, benefits under the Scheme have been extended by the Government to mills in the private sector only.

New Scheme for Foreign Tourists

2422. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new scheme for foreign tourists under which they can avail of a single ticket for journey by Air India (AI), Indian Airlines (IA) and Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether holders of such tickets will get priority in reservations in Air India, Indian Airlines and Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Indian Railways have appointed Air India and Indian Airlines as their General Sales Agents for sale of Indrail Passes, Luxury Trains and other products overseas. The scheme does not envisage issue of a single ticket. However, Indian Railways will give priority to requests received from these carriers for reservation against tourist quota. The modalities for implementation of the scheme are being worked out.

Indian Airlines already has foreign tourist priority quota for tickets issued abroad.

Tourism Export Promotion Council

2423. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Tourism Export Promotion Council to boost forex earning from the travel trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to identify countries interested in working as partners to boost foreign direct investment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of Tourism in Assam

2424. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourism schemes proposed to be taken up during Ninth Plan for the development of tourism sector in Assam and scheme-wise allocations made, so far;

(b) whether two such schemes one in Majuli Island and another in Bordowa Satra were considered by his ministry;

(c) if so, the present status of implementation of these schemes; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in finalising such schemes of primary importance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The Ministry of Tourism identifies the projects on yearly basis in consultation with the State Govts. identifies projects for Central Financial Assistance. During the year 1997-98, the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned 12 projects amounting to Rs. 288.88 lakhs to the Government of Assam.

(b) to (d) The Government of Assam had submitted a proposal for the preparation of a project report on a Heritage and Eco-Tourism Resort at Majuli during 1997-98. However, no funds could be sanctioned as the project details were incomplete. The Ministry of Tourism has asked the State Govt. to resubmit the project with all its details and has prioritised the Study Project for 1998-99. The State Govt. has not submitted any proposal for Bordowa Satra.